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The CIA Asked For It

Cuba's strong man, Fidel Castro, like all modern dictators, sees conspiracy everywhere.

Castro sees it particularly as being hatched against Cuba by the United States. The specific villain in his mind is the Central Intelligence Agency.

He made much propaganda before the meeting of the Organization of Latin American Solidarity by his charges that the CIA is directing an anti-Cuba infiltration. He even paraded seven alleged CIA, anti-Castro agents before the OLAS.

All of them are Cubans who, according to Castro, were caught red handed. It is most convenient from a propaganda viewpoint that these men should be apprehended at precisely the time Castro was seeking to steam up the OLAS conference against the US.

It would seem highly doubtful that the US and even the CIA would be attempting to infiltrate Cuba after the dreary invasion fiasco of the Bay of Pigs in 1961. It is even more unlikely that any branch of the US foreign service would hand Castro such a propaganda plumb at this exact time.

Unfortunately, however, the CIA did play a major part in the Bay of Pigs disaster and it is relatively easy for Castro to use it now as a whipping boy.

More and more it is obvious that the US must force the CIA to cease operating as an independent action group. It must be brought within the limits of official US foreign policy and limited to gathering and evaluating information.

Former President Harry S Truman said late in his administration that when he set up the CIA he never intended for it to inject itself into peacetime cloak and dagger work. It would be a good thing for the nation to be assured it has butted out of such activities.